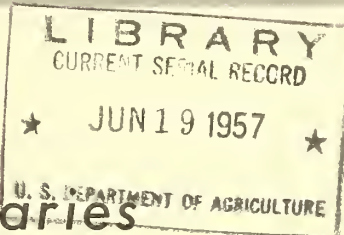


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Foreign

CROPS AND MARKETS



World Summaries CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

APRIL 1957

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Foreign Agricultural Service

Washington 25, D.C.

WORLD HARD FIBER PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO RISE

World production of the 3 principal hard fibers -- sisal, henequen, and abaca -- increased again last year. The total of 1,659.2 million pounds produced in 1956 was 5.6 percent larger than the 1,571.1 million pounds produced in 1955, and 60.0 percent larger than the average of 1,036.7 million in 1946-50.

The large output was principally the result of greatly increased sisal plantings before the price break in 1951. Even since 1951 planted areas have been increasing.

Sisal output has almost doubled since the early postwar period, and now accounts for roughly two-thirds of the current hard fiber supply. Abaca production has increased by about one-half over the 1946-50 average, and accounts for about one-fifth of the current total. Henequen production has fluctuated somewhat since the war, but has decreased from the high average of 281.8 million pounds in 1946-59 to the current production of 266.9 million.

Production of sisal is more widespread than that of the other hard fibers. In 1956 roughly 61 percent was produced in Africa, 31 percent in the Western Hemisphere, and 8 percent in Asia.

The most important sisal-producing country is British East Africa with 506.2 million pounds or 46 percent of the total sisal in 1956. Production is continuing on a rising trend, and is now about double the prewar average. Plantations are large and well organized, and produce a good grade of fiber. Practically all of the crop is exported.

Brazil is the most important sisal producing country in the Western Hemisphere. In 1956 the output was 242.5 million pounds or 22 percent of the world supply. The industry has developed from a negligible output in 1934-38. Much of the Brazilian sisal was used within the country during early producing years, but exports were about equal to production in 1956. Stocks in the country were reduced considerably during the year.

Indonesia produces most of the sisal in Asia. Plantations suffered severe damage during the war, but have recovered gradually. Output in 1956 was 74.3 million pounds. This was 69.3 million pounds more than in 1946-50, but only 45 percent of the prewar average.

HARD FIBERS: World production by calendar years, averages
1934-38 and 1946-50, and years 1953-56

Commodity and country	Averages		Calendar years			
	1934-38	1946-50	1953	1954	1955	1956 ^{1/}
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
SISAL						
British East Africa	261.0	334.7	456.9	478.2	481.8	506.2
Indonesia ^{2/}	166.8	5.0	54.5	62.3	73.2	74.3
Mozambique	32.3	38.2	48.2	54.4	59.1	^{2/} 63.5
Haiti ^{3/}	13.4	48.0	41.5	52.9	^{2/} 60.8	^{2/} 65.0
Angola	11.3	36.8	69.0	68.3	89.7	^{2/} 64.0
French West Africa	9.8	4.2	3.3	2.2	2.2	^{2/} 2.0
Madagascar ^{4/}	5.3	6.7	21.0	31.7	25.8	^{2/} 26.9
Belgian Congo ^{5/}	^{2/} 0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	^{2/} 0.8	^{2/} 0.7
Venezuela	^{2/} 0.1	5.9	19.8	^{2/} 10.0	20.0	^{2/} 20.0
Brazil	^{6/}	55.7	132.3	138.9	198.4	242.5
Formosa (Taiwan)	^{6/}	3.0	1.5	2.2	2.4	^{2/} 2.5
Other -						
British Africa ^{2/}	3.1	4.5	2.4	1.9	2.0	2.0
French Africa	^{6/}	1.2	6.2	4.4	^{2/} 3.2	^{2/} 4.5
Western Hemisphere ^{2/} ..	2.0	1.7	2.1	1.7	5.9	15.5
Asia ^{2/}	1.3	2.4	7.9	12.7	13.1	5.3
Other countries ^{2/}	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total sisal	507.4	549.2	867.8	922.6	1,038.5	1,095.0
HENEQUEN						
Mexico	212.1	243.9	201.1	231.0	241.8	238.1
Cuba	^{2/} 28.2	31.1	25.5	31.7	19.3	22.9
El Salvador	6.4	6.4	^{2/} 5.5	5.1	5.0	5.2
Other countries ^{2/}	-	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.7
Total henequen	246.7	281.8	232.2	268.0	266.3	266.9
ABACA						
Philippines, Rep. of ^{7/} ..	375.5	170.8	241.6	220.9	235.9	274.9
Indonesia ^{2/}	7.7	3.8	6.0	5.5	5.0	3.5
British North Borneo ...	^{2/} 4.0	1.2	2.6	4.2	6.2	^{2/} 7.0
Central America ^{8/}	-	28.9	31.7	19.6	17.1	7.1
Other countries ^{2/}	-	1.0	0.7	0.7	2.1	^{2/} 4.8
Total abaca	387.2	205.7	282.6	250.9	266.3	297.3
Total sisal, henequen and abaca	1,141.3	1,036.7	1,382.6	1,441.5	1,571.1	1,659.2

^{1/} Preliminary.

^{2/} Foreign Agricultural Service estimates based on incomplete data.

^{3/} Excludes flume waste beginning 1947.

^{4/} Includes Comores Island.

^{5/} Includes Ruanda Urundi.

^{6/} Not available.

^{7/} Data includes only fiber inspected by the Philippine Fiber Inspection Service and represents generally only 90 to 95 percent of the total Philippine production. Converted at 278.88 pounds to the bale.

^{8/} Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras only.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from official estimates of foreign governments, reports of U.S.D.A. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service Officers, and estimates based on exports or other available pertinent information.

Henequen production is principally in Mexico, where the 1956 crop was 238.1 million pounds or 89 percent of the world total. Mexican production decreased slightly from 1955, but was larger than in other recent years. Exports of raw fiber were resumed in August, 1956 after a period of almost total restriction. This restriction was due to contracts between producing and distributing agencies within the country. When exports of raw fiber were resumed, exports of farm twines dropped sharply.

Abaca production is centered in the Philippine Republic where 274.9 million pounds, or 92 percent of the world supply, were produced in 1956. Philippine output was the largest since 1951, but was still about 100 million pounds less than in prewar years. Recovery of war-damaged plantations progressed for several years, but became seriously hampered by the spread of mosaic disease. After reaching a postwar peak of 278.1 million pounds in 1951, production decreased to 250.9 million in 1954. Increases were reported in 1955 and 1956.

WOOL MOVEMENT FROM SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

Total exports of raw wool (actual weight) from the 5 major producing countries were 2.4 percent larger during July-December 1956 ^{1/} than in the same months of 1955. Higher levels of consumption and relatively low stock levels stimulated imports into major consuming countries, despite substantially higher prices this season.

The overall gain in exports from the Southern Hemisphere resulted mainly from a substantial increase in New Zealand's exports. The latter rose from 117.8 million pounds in July-December 1955 to 159.0 million for the same period in 1956. The only other Southern Hemisphere country that contributed to the overall increase was Australia, whose exports rose from 567.1 million pounds to 579.5 million. Over this same period, exports from the 3 major exporting countries all declined, with Uruguay's foreign trade in raw wool decreasing about 34 percent. The raw wool exports from the Union of South Africa and Argentina were down approximately 6 percent, and 10 percent, respectively.

The slight gain in exports from Australia largely resulted from increased trade with Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom and Poland. Exports of raw wool from Australia to the United States were down sharply from 24 million in 1955 to 12 million in 1956.

^{1/} Includes only October-December for Argentina and Uruguay.

WOOL: Exports from Southern Hemisphere countries 1956-57
season through December 1/, with comparisons
(actual weight)

Principal countries of destination	Australia	New Zealand	Union of South Africa	Argentina	Uruguay	Total 5
	1955-56:1956-57	1955-56:1956-57	1955-56:1956-57	1955-56:1956-57	1955-56:1956-57	1955-56:1956-57
	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.	Mil.lb.
United States . . .	33.7	18.3	11.6	7.8	14.5	3.1
United Kingdom . . .	156.1	164.0	29.8	27.1	6.1	10.5
Canada	3.6	3.2	1.5	0.5	0	0
Japan	81.1	102.6	1.0	2.2	3.8	10.3
U.S.S.R.	-	-	3.8	-	16.1	2.6
Continental Europe:						
France	114.7	107.7	15.2	23.0	25.1	25.7
Belgium	50.1	51.1	2.8	5.0	5.7	6.8
Germany	39.7	38.2	9.1	10.9	20.4	21.3
Italy	41.7	52.1	1.1	6.3	8.1	11.2
Other	30.6	24.5	9.0	12.5	5.5	4.8
Total	276.8	273.6	37.2	57.7	64.8	69.8
Other	15.8	17.8	3.5	3.8	0.7	1.3
Total	567.1	579.5	117.8	159.0	127.3	119.4
Percent of change from 1955-56 . . .	+2.2	+34.9	-6.2	-10.3	-34.3	+2.4

1/ Season begins July 1 in Australia, New Zealand and Union of South Africa, and October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Stocks of wool in Australia as of December 31, 1956 were 16 percent above the previous year, indicating that sales were not rapid enough to dispose of the 9-percent larger clip.

Production of wool in Australia is now estimated at 1,530 million pounds, greasy basis, 45 percent above the 1935-40 average. Prices of Australian wool, with minor lapses, have increased during July-December 1956 period and indications are that if they remain reasonably near current levels, production of wool will continue to increase at the rate of 3 to 5 percent yearly.

The 35-percent increase in exports of raw wool from New Zealand was due largely to increased sales to the United States and the United Kingdom. Shipment to the United States increased from 7.5 million in July-December 1955 to 18.3 million for the same period in 1956. Over this period their raw wool trade with the United Kingdom increased from 63.3 million pounds to 75.5 million. Wool prices in New Zealand have increased fairly steadily since the opening of the 1956-57 season and now are the highest since the 1950-51 Korean war boom season.

Exports from the Union of South Africa dropped from 127.3 in July-December 1955 to 119.4 for the same 6 months in 1956. This represents a drop of 6 percent. Shipments to the Soviet Union fell 84 percent, to the United States by 32 percent and to the United Kingdom by 9 percent. On the other hand, South African raw wool exports to Japan at 10.3 million pounds were nearly 3 times larger than a year earlier, and those to Italy rose 34 percent from 8.1 million pounds to 11.2 million.

The Union of South Africa's wool stocks on December 1956 were about 10 percent greater than in 1955.

Wool production for the 1956-57 season in the Union of South Africa is expected to exceed 320 million pounds, including karakul, compared with 314 million pounds for the previous season.

The average price for all wool sold in South Africa during July-December 1955 was up 31.5 percent from the corresponding period in 1955.

Raw wool exports from Argentina dropped from 50.4 million pounds in October-December 1955 to 45.2 million pounds for the same period in 1956. Reduced trade with the United States was the principal cause for the overall decline.

Production of wool in Argentina for the 1956-57 season is estimated at 419 million pounds, compared with 357 million pounds in 1955-56.

Wool prices paid in Argentina for the first quarter of the 1956-57 season were at record levels.

Exports of raw wool from Uruguay totaled 35.5 million pounds, during October-December 1956, as compared with 54.6 million pounds for the same period in 1955. Shipments to most leading markets were reduced, the heaviest declines being to the United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union. The Netherlands and Japan were the only countries to take more than in the previous year.

It is estimated that Uruguayan wool production for the 1956-57 season will be in the vicinity of 70,000 metric tons, substantially less than last year.

At the beginning of the 1956-57 season, wool stocks in Uruguay were about 20 percent lower than in October 1955.

Current prices in Uruguay are about 80 percent higher than last year, and are expected to continue to remain favorable.

REVIEW OF WORLD LARD SITUATION

World production of lard and unrendered hog fat (in terms of lard) in 1956 totaled 8.9 billion pounds, approximately 4 percent larger than in 1955 and 25 percent more than the prewar average. Most of the increase occurred in the United States. Production was up moderately in most of the major lard-producing countries, including West Germany, Italy, Yugoslavia, Brazil and Mexico. The United States output in 1956 totaled 2.78 billion pounds or about 30 percent of the world total.

World exports of lard equaled approximately 745 million pounds in 1956 compared with 687 in 1955 and 360 in 1935-39. In 1956 the United States, with exports of 612 million pounds, accounted for about 83 percent of this total.

Cuba was the principal market for United States lard in 1956, followed closely by the United Kingdom. Other leading importers of lard from the United States were Yugoslavia, West Germany, Austria, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia and Peru. These countries took slightly over 92 percent of total United States lard exports.

Outside the United States, lard production is commercially significant in foreign trade only in Argentina, France, Denmark, Belgium-Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Exports of lard from Argentina increased from 10 million pounds in 1955 to 22 million pounds in 1956, with Peru, the United Kingdom, Chile and Italy taking most of the shipments.

(Text continued on Page 11; tables follow)

Lard: Estimated production, world and specified countries, averages 1935-39, 1945-49 and annual 1951-56

Continent and country	Averages		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	1935-39	1945-49						
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America:								
Canada	63	90	118	177	139	90	105	106
Mexico	50	76	79	73	79	100	110	116
United States	1,630	2,292	2,863	2,881	2,355	2,330	2,660	2,775
Europe:								
Austria 2/	78	28	76	84	104	102	108	112
Belgium-Luxembourg	42	26	42	44	44	44	46	51
Denmark	30	22	40	38	48	51	53	48
France 2/	220	186	220	256	285	282	295	330
Germany, Western 2/	3/4 420	250	400	460	457	470	525	535
Italy 2/	245	215	235	325	305	250	275	325
Netherlands 2/	110	44	122	124	136	140	150	152
Portugal 2/	52	48	58	60	62	60	60	62
Spain 2/	150	125	135	150	150	155	160	160
Sweden	16	16	20	22	24	26	28	27
Switzerland	20	16	13	13	15	15	15	16
United Kingdom	4/35	5	8	11	12	12	22	22
Yugoslavia 2/	140	5/	5/	120	137	207	219	178
South America:								
Argentina	20	60	36	32	30	26	22	43
Brazil	290	300	344	344	340	368	340	347
Chile	8	12	14	16	17	17	17	17
Colombia	18	22	24	27	27	27	27	27
World total 6/	6,970	6,195	7,890	8,400	7,960	8,175	8,590	8,920

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes unrendered pork fat in terms of lard. 3/ Excludes fat produced from imported live animals. 4/ Less than 5 year average. 5/ Not available. 6/ Includes estimates for the large production of communist countries and for minor producing countries.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States' representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

Lard: Exports from specified countries and estimated world total, averages 1935-39, 1945-49, and annual 1951-56

Continent and country	Averages									
	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1/	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.		
North America:										
Canada	19	2/ 476	- 689	13 634	2 423	1 465	1 562	2/ 612		
United States	166									
Europe:										
Belgium-Luxembourg	1	3/5	13	11	26	19	25	17		
Denmark.	25	10	27	21	27	37	34	25		
France	4	5/ 478	6 5/	3 5/	11 5/	16 5/	29 5/	43 5/		
Hungary.	31		5/		5/					
Italy.	32/	-	2	5	9	1	-	-		
Netherlands.	17	3/4	21	17	6/12	6/12	6/14	6/12		
Sweden	2	1	3	3	-	1	2	2		
Yugoslavia	16	-	-	-	-	-	3	3		
South America:										
Argentina.	17	47	18	6	22	10	10	22		
Brazil	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other:										
China.	10	1	1	2	3	5/ 1	5/ 1	5/ 1		
New Zealand.	2/	5	1	1	1					
World total 1/.	360	560	790	720	550	580	687	745		

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 3/ Less than 5 years. 4/ 1947 only. 5/ Not available.
 6/ Excludes re-exports. 7/ Includes estimates for countries for which data are not available and for minor exporting countries.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States' representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

Lard: Imports into specified countries, average 1935-39, annual 1951-55

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America:						
Canada	2	12	1	7	3	7
Costa Rica	2/ 3	7	8	8	8	3/8
Cuba	39	146	175	147	161	167
Dominican Republic	1	4/	1	4/	-	-
Guatemala	1	8	8	3/7	3/11	3/13
Haiti	1	5	9	3/7	3/6	3/6
Mexico	5	28	23	28	23	3/20
Panama, Republic of	1	3/6	8	3/7	3/9	3/3
Europe:						
Austria	1	47	54	30	43	36
Belgium-Luxembourg	5	12	10	26	19	25
Finland	4/	4/	4/	1	4/	4/
France	1	2	1	4/	4/	4/
Germany, Western	2/5/75	85	126	93	63	91
Italy	1	7	3	2	1	4/
Netherlands	3	7	1	9	11	9
Norway	1	2	1	1	4/	1
Switzerland	169	201	132	28	105	196
United Kingdom	6/	112	64	92	46	79
Yugoslavia						
South America:						
Bolivia	1	7	6	6	9	12
Brazil	-	-	2	27	23	4/
Colombia	4	3	8	4/	4	12
Ecuador	2	4/	3	11	15	4
Peru	4/	11	25	20	15	24
Venezuela	12	11	9	2	2	3/2
Asia:						
Japan	6/	5	1	1	2	7
Malaya, Federation of	2	3	3	4	3	3

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 5 years. 3/ Exports from United States. 4/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 5/ Prewar Germany. 6/ Not available.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States' representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

France also increased its total exports of lard in 1956, due primarily to an increase in trade with West Germany. Lard exported from France to Italy was also up from 1 million pounds in 1955 to 10.5 million in 1956. French exports to West Germany, by far their most important market for French lard, increased about 15 percent due principally to the fact that the United States lard price was 50 percent higher than that of France for part of the year. This was largely due to the French policy of subsidizing lard exports.

Exports from Denmark were down about 35 percent because of increased consumption at home and also the loss of several important markets as a result of price competition.

Belgium and the Netherlands' lard exports declined, largely because of reduced trade with Eastern Europe.

REVIEW OF WORLD TALLOW AND GREASE SITUATION

The upward trend in world production of tallows and greases continued in 1956 with the rise in livestock slaughter and meat production.

World production of tallow and grease in 1956 totaled approximately 6.3 billion pounds, about 6 percent larger than in 1955, and over twice the 1935-39 average.

This gain in postwar production is largely the result of increased cattle slaughter in the United States. Rising standards of living and increased incomes in a number of foreign countries have materially strengthened the demand for tallows and greases in soap manufacturing and other industrial uses.

Production increased in 1956 in nearly all the important tallow producing countries, except the United Kingdom and France. Significant increases occurred in Argentina, Australia, Canada and the United States.

The United States, the world's leading producer accounted for about 55 percent of the world total. United States production of tallow rose sharply during World War II, tapered off somewhat in the immediate post-war years and then increased gradually to a record 3.3 billion pounds in 1956. Over this same period consumption in the United States has remained relatively stable since declining use of tallow in soap manufacturing has been more than offset by an expansion in other outlets, such as fatty acids and animal feeds. With the level of home consumption remaining practically unchanged, the United States has had to depend increasingly on exports as a means of maintaining domestic prices.

Tallow and greases: Estimated production, world and specified countries, averages 1935-39, 1945-49 and annual 1951-56

Continent and country	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.	Mill. lb.
North America:								
Canada	50	101	98	127	142	124	137	153
Mexico	40	48	58	59	55	50	50	52
United States	1,098	2,068	2,402	2,501	2,923	2,940	3,170	3,398
Europe:								
Belgium-Luxembourg	20	14	24	24	25	28	30	33
Denmark	42	28	34	32	44	53	53	51
France	150	110	164	168	180	193	196	193
Germany, Western	2/3/80	60	70	73	84	95	95	94
Italy	46	32	40	42	48	53	54	56
Netherlands	4/42	5/18	49	47	49	50	55	55
Sweden	18	18	20	18	18	18	22	18
United Kingdom	3/215	80	108	130	150	195	238	213
South America:								
Argentina	196	380	380	362	361	347	412	475
Brazil	90	90	104	88	96	100	99	100
Chile	24	24	28	28	28	28	28	28
Colombia	26	44	60	60	70	82	82	84
Uruguay	40	44	86	91	100	73	61	80
Asia:								
Iran	24	22	30	31	44	45	45	45
Turkey	34	38	44	47	48	48	48	48
Japan	14	4	12	16	21	21	21	21
Pakistan	50	50	56	56	56	56	56	56
Africa, Oceania:								
Australia	128	134	160	206	275	282	280	300
New Zealand	72	106	98	100	108	110	111	114
Union of South Africa	12	24	23	24	30	30	30	33
World total 6/	3,185	4,035	4,770	4,960	5,570	5,740	5,960	6,280

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Excludes fat from imported live animals. 3/ Less than 5 year average. 4/ Two year average. 5/ Four year average. 6/ Includes estimates for countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States' representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

Tallow and greases: Exports from specified countries, and estimated world total, averages 1935-39, 1945-49, and annual 1951-56

Continent and Country:	Averages		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 ^{1/}
	1935-39	1945-49						
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America:								
Canada	6	1	8	13	25	29	40	50
United States	21	131	552	785	1,241	1,205	1,337	1,528
Europe:								
Belgium-Luxembourg	18	2	24	32	35	35	29	35
Denmark	6	1	7	10	11	11	14	7
France	18	2 ^{2/}	2	6	7	5	3	5
Germany, Western	3 ^{1/4} 2	-	3	3	6	12	9	8
Netherlands	11	3 ^{3/5}	6	11	5	12	23	28
Sweden	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	3
Switzerland	2	1	2	4	4	3	3	3
South America:								
Argentina	130	79	12	1	4	9	2 ^{2/}	21
Brazil	23	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	19	10	4	2	4	4	-	-
Oceania:								
Australia	69	26	43	26	108	48	95	5 ^{5/}
New Zealand	61	57	66	109	89	92	110	114
World total ^{6/}	490	340	760	1,040	1,550	1,510	1,700	1,830

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Less than 500,000 pounds. ^{3/} Less than 5 years. ^{4/} Prewar Germany. ^{5/} Not available.
^{6/} Includes estimates for countries for which data are not available and for minor exporting countries. Also, exports of certain European countries probably include some re-exports of tallow.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States' representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

Tallow and greases: Imports into specified countries,
average 1935-39, annual 1951-55

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
North America:						
Canada	10	41	28	16	4	1
Cuba	6	34	28	29	34	31
Dominican Republic	2/	3	3/5	6	4	3/3
Guatemala	4/	5	6	3/3	7	6
Mexico	9	27	45	58	61	55
United States	74	4	1	1	4	3
Europe:						
Austria	2	20	11	12	11	9
Belgium-Luxembourg	24	45	29	40	29	25
Denmark	1	1	2/	3	4	3
Finland	2	9	5	9	3/4	2/3/
France	4	20	11	22	2	6
Germany, Western	5/6/78	51	80	162	163	164
Ireland	4	12	16	11	11	12
Italy	14	96	130	190	149	272
Netherlands	34	10	47	125	196	170
Norway	1	1	4	3	5	5
Spain	7/36	2	4	6	3/4	3/7
Sweden	10	2	2/	4	2/	2/
Switzerland	5	25	19	24	20	3/29
United Kingdom	101	67	129	98	81	113
Yugoslavia	11	17	14	22	21	28
South America:						
Chile	3	4	4	4	3/5	3/7
Colombia	5/2	4	10	27	3/12	3/20
Ecuador	4/	3	4	8	3/9	3/8
Peru	2/	6	13	13	11	3/10
Venezuela	4/	2	2	2	5	3/5
Other:						
Ceylon	2/	3	1	1	4	2/
Egypt	1	13	38	48	43	51
India	2	7	6	22	23	10
Japan	5/9	63	143	221	212	259
Malaya, Federation of	-	2	5	11	4	8
Philippines, Rep. of	2/	3/11	3/9	3/11	3/12	3/12
Taiwan (Formosa)	4/	3/9	3/9	3/14	3/22	3/23
Turkey	5/1	2/	2/	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	1	46	46	66	65	3/5

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 3/ Exports from the United States. 4/ Not available.
5/ Less than 5 years. 6/ Prewar Germany. 7/ Average 1933-35.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States' representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

World exports of tallow and grease also increased materially, going from 1.7 billion pounds in 1955 to approximately 2.0 billion pounds in 1956. Most of the grain occurred in the United States where exports were up about 15 percent in 1956. The United States presently accounts for nearly 83 percent of the world trade in tallow and grease. The only other countries where exports are of any commercial significance are Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Canada has gradually increased its tallow exports from one million pounds in 1945-49 to over 50 million pounds in 1956. Over this same period New Zealand's foreign trade in tallow increased from 57 to 114 million pounds. Argentina, by far the principal exporter of tallow prior to World War II, averaging about 130 million pounds per year, shipped only 21 million pounds during the last year.

Practically all major markets for United States tallow and grease imported more in 1956, with the exception of the Netherlands where imports from the United States dropped about 10 percent. Exports from the United States to nearly all North American markets increased, with Canada, Cuba and Mexico increasing their imports substantially. United States exports of tallow and grease to South America declined in 1956 as a result of reduced trade with Colombia and Chile. The European market, however, which takes about 60 percent of United States exports, increased purchases by nearly 20 percent. Approximately 290 million pounds of United States tallow and grease went to Asia, with Japan taking about 210 million and continuing to hold position as one of the most important customers for United States tallow.

REVIEW OF 1956 WORLD BARLEY AND OATS PRODUCTION

Forecasts of a record 1956-57 world production of barley and oats have been confirmed by the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. Present estimates place the 2 crops combined at 147 million short tons, a slight increase over the previous estimate in Foreign Crops and Markets of January 28, 1957. That increase results from upward revisions in estimates for both barley and oats, mainly in the Southern Hemisphere, where late harvest returns in some countries showed better yields than had been expected.

The estimate of 147 million tons is only slightly above the total for the previous year but is sharply above the low level of 115 million tons in 1945-49 and also well above the prewar average of 127 million. Since the prewar period, a marked increase in world barley acreage and production has more than offset a decline in oats.

BARLEY: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1954-56 1/

Continent and country	Acreage 2/			Yield per acre 3/			Production		
	Average			Average			Average		
	1935-39	1945-49	1954	1935-39	1945-49	1954	1935-39	1945-49	1954
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	4,291	6,569	7,856	8,722	20.7	21.5	22.3	25.4	31.8
Mexico	374	457	571	600	10.6	13.2	13.4	14.8	15.2
United States	10,817	10,713	13,370	14,564	12,827	22.1	25.5	28.4	27.5
Estimated total 5/	15,480	17,740	21,800	25,090	22,150	-	-	-	-
EUROPE									
Austria	401	293	372	385	416	24.3	38.7	41.2	42.5
Belgium	74	198	188	202	224	47.4	60.2	63.8	59.1
Denmark	946	1,079	1,506	1,599	1,599	55.9	59.6	67.0	68.3
Finland	280	346	435	460	505	24.6	31.7	27.2	26.7
France	1,897	2,019	3,041	3,244	5,659	27.9	26.0	38.1	37.8
Western Germany	1,288	1,288	1,925	2,103	39.4	34.0	48.7	49.6	50.5
Greece	525	453	528	518	515	17.8	20.3	19.9	22.7
Ireland	118	147	163	213	236	45.9	50.8	53.9	55.1
Italy	475	603	612	603	585	20.9	15.7	22.2	21.6
Netherlands	107	139	156	172	182	55.5	51.4	61.2	68.8
Norway	143	99	224	250	268	38.2	40.5	38.5	50.2
Portugal	320	322	395	385	390	11.9	14.1	10.1	10.8
Spain	4,549	3,979	3,990	3,830	4,549	21.3	21.0	25.6	24.2
Sweden	252	226	411	526	593	39.5	36.5	40.3	47.8
Switzerland	13	66	51	55	74	33.1	41.6	52.7	48.1
United Kingdom	934	2,120	2,063	2,296	2,336	39.2	43.3	50.8	56.2
Yugoslavia	1,045	-	-	835	872	18.0	-	21.4	18.1
Estimated total 5/	14,100	14,370	16,800	17,590	20,410	-	-	-	-
Other Europe, estimated total 8/	9,210	7,830	7,950	7,740	7,940	-	-	-	-
All Europe, estimated total 5/	23,310	22,200	24,750	25,330	28,350	-	-	-	-
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	26,600	19,800	-	-	-	13.7	-	-	-

ASIA														
Iran	1,545	1,687	1,975	-	-	19/23.1	22.0	19.2	-	-	35,728	37,157	37,850	40,420
Iraq	1,932	1,901	-	-	-	15/12.2	15.5	-	-	-	23,635	29,502	35,000	41,500
Lebanon	1,932	52	28	-	-	28/19.4	22.4	24.6	26.2	27.1	1,165	1,690	690	735
Syria	793	867	1,342	1,000	1,630	19.4	12.8	17.1	6.9	18.0	15,386	11,135	22,960	6,890
Turkey	4,592	4,235	6,175	6,523	6,580	20.9	16.2	17.9	21.0	15.2	96,129	68,675	110,230	137,100
China	6/16,000	15,521	-	-	-	16/21.7	20.8	-	-	-	6/347,000	322,244	-	100,000
Manchuria	353	250	-	-	-	15/18.3	22.2	-	-	-	6/4,462	5,550	-	-
India 10/	5,793	6,900	8,720	8,309	8,145	15.6	15.4	15.5	16.1	15.6	90,253	106,255	135,570	126,980
Pakistan 10/	486	547	603	568	580	14.5	12.7	11.1	11.6	11.9	7,047	6,922	6,670	6,910
Japan	1,888	2,137	2,500	2,460	2,425	38.7	26.2	42.6	40.3	39.7	73,113	56,046	106,500	99,020
Korea	2,671	-	-	-	-	18.6	-	-	-	-	42,656	-	-	96,380
Estimated total 5/	38,530	38,410	43,540	43,950	44,330	-	-	-	-	-	780,000	704,000	842,000	843,000
AFRICA														
Algeria	3,051	2,227	3,470	3,304	3,300	10.9	12.6	12.2	9.8	13.5	33,132	28,120	42,270	32,470
Egypt	276	260	127	141	137	38.8	33.1	42.0	41.3	43.2	10,697	8,605	5,330	5,920
French Morocco	4,448	3,728	5,179	4,830	4,665	12.0	12.7	18.0	11.9	15.7	53,279	47,320	93,120	57,330
Tunisia	1,182	1,257	1,550	800	1,500	7.7	6.3	5.0	5.0	5.5	9,048	7,901	7,810	4,000
Union of South Africa	86	103	-	-	-	16/18.1	15.7	-	-	-	1,555	1,617	2,800	8,270
Estimated total 5/	10,680	9,380	12,940	11,660	12,180	-	-	-	-	-	124,000	111,000	178,000	128,000
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina	1,286	1,621	1,942	2,050	-	17.6	21.9	26.3	21.3	-	22,586	35,576	51,070	43,680
Chile	184	121	145	152	149	27.4	30.3	27.6	30.3	24.2	5,041	3,664	4,000	4,600
Peru	300	335	480	507	510	18.3	20.0	21.7	20.8	15.0	5,500	6,716	10,400	7,670
Uruguay	44	65	120	81	137	14.8	13.0	15.8	16.4	10.4	649	861	1,900	1,420
Estimated total 5/	2,140	2,580	3,350	3,420	4,100	-	-	-	-	-	38,000	53,000	77,000	70,000
OCEANIA														
Australia	648	868	1,690	1,900	2,100	18.0	19.4	18.1	22.5	22.3	11,651	16,854	30,625	42,810
New Zealand	24	56	42	44	-	39.7	39.7	47.4	43.2	-	952	2,223	1,990	1,900
Total	672	924	1,732	1,944	2,145	-	-	-	-	-	12,603	19,077	32,615	44,710
Estimated world total 5/	117,410	111,030	129,610	135,900	140,460	-	-	-	-	-	2,377,000	2,180,000	2,855,000	3,095,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1956 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1956 and ended early in 1957. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production, are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 6/ Average of less than 5 years. 7/ Figure for 1935 only. 8/ Comprises Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania. 9/ Estimates for Syria and Lebanon not shown separately during this period. 10/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable throughout, since figures for 1954-56 include allowances for non-reporting areas, which were not included for earlier periods shown, but were included in estimated total for Asia.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign countries, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches abroad, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

ONT3: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1954-56 $\frac{1}{2}$

Continent and country	Acreage $\frac{2}{2}$			Yield per acre $\frac{2}{2}$			Production		
	Average			Average			Average		
	1935-39	1945-49	1954	1935-39	1945-49	1954	1935-39	1945-49	1954
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada $\frac{5}{5}$	13,246	11,513	10,161	11,178	11,972	25.5	28.4	30.2	36.5
Mexico	29	108	215	-	-	16.0	19.9	19.5	-
United States	35,761	40,184	40,551	39,243	33,639	29.2	34.3	34.8	38.3
Estimated total $\frac{5}{5}$	49,040	51,810	50,930	50,640	45,800	-	-	-	-
EUROPE									
Austria	686	534	519	468	461	41.9	32.6	44.4	53.5
Belgium	548	518	376	368	389	74.7	73.1	82.9	90.1
Denmark	932	822	610	657	626	75.3	82.5	90.2	90.5
Finland	1,030	931	1,260	1,260	1,250	43.7	37.9	44.4	37.3
France	8,089	6,110	5,322	5,132	5,666	40.7	36.3	46.3	48.9
Western Germany	3,370	2,892	2,329	2,394	2,350	57.7	50.0	73.2	71.3
Greece	350	312	345	365	368	24.3	19.4	29.9	29.6
Ireland	571	819	535	545	525	68.8	58.7	62.1	72.8
Italy	1,062	1,138	1,117	1,078	1,047	35.9	26.8	33.6	33.3
Luxembourg	65	54	47	50	50	44.8	43.9	49.6	59.4
Netherlands	360	378	352	420	377	71.6	63.8	91.3	95.1
Norway	212	195	174	169	164	61.0	57.1	63.6	46.4
Portugal	865	914	750	770	780	12.0	9.0	11.5	7.4
Spain	1,848	1,566	1,502	1,505	1,507	21.3	22.0	24.1	24.7
Sweden	1,641	1,300	1,172	1,260	1,345	53.1	44.6	50.7	22.6
Switzerland	28	86	62	59	84	56.9	64.7	83.1	78.6
United Kingdom	2,430	3,443	2,588	2,580	2,577	57.0	59.5	66.0	73.5
Yugoslavia	893	-	-	795	922	24.5	-	-	24.1
Estimated total $\frac{5}{5}$	24,980	22,960	19,910	19,880	20,490	-	-	-	-
Other Europe, estimated total $\frac{2}{2}$	11,110	9,290	9,190	8,490	8,480	-	-	-	-
Estimated total, all Europe $\frac{5}{5}$	36,090	32,250	29,100	28,370	28,970	-	-	-	-
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	49,500	35,100	-	-	-	23.5	20.5	-	-

ASIA														
Syria	10/	24	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10/	662
Turkey	636	642	860	912	-	-	26.1	-	-	-	-	-	21.6	574
China	2,600	2,365	-	-	-	-	26.6	26.0	26.9	-	-	-	16,893	14,000
Japan	310	227	218	227	-	-	23.1	21.7	-	-	-	-	7/	51,325
Korea	242	-	-	-	-	-	37.0	27.7	50.4	51.5	-	-	48.5	6,288
Estimated total 5/	3,990	3,910	4,610	4,750	4,760	-	11.2	-	-	-	-	-	7/	11,481
AFRICA														
Algeria	465	420	358	310	309	-	23.4	18.3	19.0	21.3	-	-	10,859	7,694
French Morocco	104	95	140	-	-	-	26.5	25.0	-	33.9	-	-	2,751	2,376
Tunisia	84	70	47	-	-	-	19.9	13.7	-	-	-	-	1,674	938
Union of South Africa	544	736	-	-	-	-	12.8	11.1	-	-	-	-	6,966	8,415
Estimated total 5/	1,220	1,370	1,280	1,270	1,280	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,000	20,000
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina	1,974	1,666	1,500	1,617	-	-	25.4	29.6	30.8	30.0	-	-	50,182	49,310
Chile	279	204	236	210	250	-	27.5	26.2	20.8	31.5	-	-	7,670	5,343
Uruguay	213	172	110	123	160	-	14.6	16.5	22.8	20.5	-	-	3,100	2,840
Estimated total 5/	2,490	2,080	1,900	2,040	2,970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62,000	58,000
OCEANIA														
Australia	1,593	1,860	2,600	3,300	3,100	-	14.7	17.9	20.6	15.8	-	-	23,351	33,249
New Zealand	63	61	31	42	44	-	56.2	60.1	57.4	64.5	-	-	3,539	3,669
Total	1,656	1,921	2,631	3,342	3,144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,890	36,918
Estimated world total 5/	143,990	128,440	132,450	126,910	123,920	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,364,000	4,190,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1956 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvests which began late in 1956 and ended early in 1957. 2/ Figures refer to harvested areas as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Production and yield reported in bushels of 34 pounds. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Average of less than 5 years. 8/ Figure for 1935 only. 9/ Comprises Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania. 10/ Includes estimate for Lebanon, and is, therefore, not strictly comparable with estimates shown for later years.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Agricultural Attachees abroad, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

World barley production is now estimated at the record figure of 3,295 million bushels, 30 million more than the previous estimate. The bulk of the increase occurred in Argentina where an unprecedented harvest is now reported. The current world estimate is 200 million bushels above the previous record of 1955. Much of that increase is in West Europe, traditionally North America's largest outlet for barley. While increases were general throughout the area, a sharp increase in France's outturn accounted for the bulk of the gain, and enables that country to compete for markets in other countries of West Europe.

World production of oats is estimated at 4,250 million bushels. Though 25 million bushels above the previous estimate, this is 195 million bushels less than the 1955 harvest. The reduction results from a sharp cut in the United States crop, which is only partially offset by larger crops in Canada, Western Europe, and South America. Though the world total is also moderately below the prewar average of 4,364 million bushels, that decline is much less than the acreage decline. Continuing cuts in acreage of oats have brought world acreage from the prewar level of 144 million acres to a low of 124 million in 1956.

North America's barley production is estimated at 659 million bushels, little change from the 1955 total, which was double the 1935-39 average. The acreage increase during the same period was considerable but not proportionate to the production gain. The total of about 22 million acres in 1956 was 43 percent above the 1935-39 average of 15.5 million. A moderate decline from last year's crop in the United States was offset by an increase in Canada. The outturn of 278 million bushels in Canada compares with 252 million a year ago and the prewar average of 89 million. Yields in both Canada and the United States show marked increases over prewar.

Production of oats in North America was greatly reduced from the 1955 total but is still somewhat above prewar. The reduction from the high 1955 figure results from the sharp cut in the United States outturn. Both acreage and yields were below the high levels of 1955 and the resulting reduction in the United States crop was only partially offset by a substantial increase in Canada. This country's harvest of 534 million bushels has been exceeded only twice. The large crop is attributed to near record yields on an acreage 10 percent below the 1935-39 average.

Production of these grains in West Europe was large mainly because of the record outturn of barley. The harvest of 853 million bushels is 158 million bushels above the 1955 crop as a result of substantially increased acreage and above-average yields. Of the 2.8 million acre increase over the 1955 total, more than 85 percent was reported for France, where a large part of the winter killed wheat acreage was re-seeded to spring barley. Yields in that country were at a new high and the 1956 outturn of 275 million bushels contrasts with the prewar average of 53 million. Oats production in West Europe is estimated at 1,093 million bushels. This is slightly above the 1955 total but is not up to the prewar average of 1,135 million.

The 1956 outturn of these grains in Eastern Europe is estimated to be moderately below the 1955 production and somewhat less than average. The barley total, estimated at 197 million bushels, compares with 210 million a year earlier and the prewar average of 253 million. Smaller yields than in 1955 were general throughout the area. Total production of oats is estimated at 319 million bushels compared with 347 million in 1955 and the prewar average of 473 million.

In the Soviet Union larger acreages of barley and oats appear to have resulted in some production increase over the 1955 total for the two grains. This year's total, however, is still somewhat below the prewar average.

The increased acreage resulted mainly from re-seeding of breadgrain acreage, which had suffered extensive winter killing in the south and central regions of the Union. It appears that less favorable weather conditions, especially during the harvest period, resulted in some lowering of the barn yields of these grains.

Asia's production of both barley and oats was less than in 1955 mainly because of smaller outturns in Turkey. Yields in that country were somewhat below average because of drought. Turkey's barley production, as estimated at 100 million bushels, is the smallest harvest since 1950.

Moderate reductions are reported for most important producing countries of the area, exceptions being Iraq and Syria where near-record crops provide surpluses for export. Syria's 1956 harvest of 29 million bushels contrasts with the very small outturn of 7 million bushels last year. Production of oats in Asia is estimated at 102 million bushels compared with 108 million last year.

Barley production in Africa was large mainly because of exceptional yields in Algeria and French Morocco. Those two countries produced about three quarters of Africa's total of 161 million bushels in 1956. Oats production for Africa was 20 million bushels, the same as in 1955.

Large crops in South America, mainly in Argentina, bring the total for barley to more than double the prewar average. The current estimate of 84 million bushels for that continent is 20 percent above the 1955 total. Oats production of 91 million bushels is about 50 percent above last year's outturn.

Australia reports a record crop of barley and a near-record harvest of oats. The barley crop of 47 million bushels contrasts with the prewar average of 12 million bushels. Both acreage and yields were sharply above average. Production of oats, as reported at 55 million bushels is somewhat below the record crop of 68 million last year but is, with that exception, the largest crop on record.

REVIEW OF THE 1956-57 WORLD CORN CROP

World corn production in 1956-57 is estimated at the all-time record figure of 6,615 million bushels. This is about 30 million bushels larger than the earlier forecast of the current crop and exceeds the previous record production in 1955 by 330 million bushels.

Increases over the 1955 outturns in the United States and the Soviet Union account for the bulk of the gain over the previous year's total. Those significant increases, with moderate increases for Asia and Africa, more than offset reductions in Europe and South America. The current estimate for world production is 1,325 million bushels above the 1945-49 average, reflecting higher yields in the United States resulting from greater use of higher yielding hybrids, and sharply increased acreage in the Soviet Union.

Though the United States crop was 154 million bushels less than the record 1948 harvest, record carry-over stocks on October 1 bring corn supplies for the current season to an all-time high. Prospects are poor for the harvest now under way in Argentina, because of severe drought, and it appears that there will be little, if any, corn available for export from that historically important corn exporting country.

Corn production in North America is estimated at 3,686 million bushels, second only to the 1948 record of 3,785 million. The United States production, which accounts for more than half the world corn crop, was the second largest of record, and 220 million bushels above the 1955 harvest.

While the United States outturn of corn for all purposes was larger in 1948, the 1956 crop set a new yield record at 45.4 bushels per acre. The high yields largely offset the lower acreage which was 9 million less than the 1948 harvested area. The 1956 acreage of 76 million was the lowest since 1890. Mexico, the second largest producer of the area, reported a near-record crop of 150 million bushels.

Europe's corn outturn is estimated at 675 million bushels, 50 million below the large harvest of 1955. The bulk of the reduction was in the Danube Basin countries where conditions were relatively unfavorable in 1956 and harvests appear to have been somewhat below average.

In Italy and France, in contrast, yields were unprecedentedly high. In France, acreage was also at a new high, and the production of 70 million bushels contrasts with the low 1945-49 average of 10 million. The crop of 134 million bushels in Italy was also at a record level, the high yields offsetting some reduction from prewar acreage.

A program stressing corn production in the Soviet Union has effected a great increase in corn acreage in that area. Sharp increases in each of the past 2 seasons have resulted in an almost five fold increase over the 1954 acreage. Since a large proportion of the expansion was made in a number of the more northern and eastern regions where the growing season is too short for maturing corn for grain, a large proportion of the 1955 and 1956 corn crops was harvested for green fodder. Early frosts in many areas aggravated that situation this year.

Asia's estimated production of 730 million bushels was slightly above the 1955 crop and well above average. The increases are mainly due to expanded acreage. Slight increases are indicated for most of the principal producing areas. The principal exception is Turkey, whose harvest was slightly smaller than that of recent years because of drought damage.

Corn production in Africa is now estimated at 360 million bushels, 20 million more than the previous forecast. Most of the increase from the earlier forecast is in the Union of South Africa the principal producer of the continent. Production there is tentatively placed at the record figure of 142 million bushels, which would be 40 percent of Africa's total. If the harvest now in progress in that Southern Hemisphere country is as large as now forecast, it will add to the already sizable surplus of corn for export there. A near record crop is reported for Egypt, the second largest producer of the area.

The corn harvest now under way in South America is tentatively placed at 460 million bushels, considerably below average, on the basis of preliminary reports. Drought conditions have reduced the crops considerably below earlier expectations in a number of countries. The reduction was especially marked in Argentina and Uruguay.

(Text continued on Page 26; table follows)

CORN: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1954-56 $\frac{1}{2}$

Continent and country	Acreage $\frac{2}{2}$		Yield per acre $\frac{3}{3}$		Production	
	Average		Average		Average	
	1935-39	1945-49	1935-39	1945-49	1935-39	1945-49
	acres	acres	acres	acres	bushels	bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	172	244	418	507	1,000	1,000
El Salvador	500	670	480	425	1,000	1,000
Guatemala	1,000	1,208	1,355	1,378	1,000	1,000
Honduras	258	258	258	258	1,000	1,000
Mexico	7,501	8,894	10,870	9,884	1,000	1,000
Nicaragua	174	294	294	395	1,000	1,000
United States	92,699	85,694	80,186	79,530	1,000	1,000
Cuba	360	433	435	435	1,000	1,000
Estimated total $\frac{6}{6}$	103,330	98,590	95,470	94,010	1,000	1,000
EUROPE						
Albania	235	242	148	139	1,000	1,000
Austria	163	152	163	152	1,000	1,000
Bulgaria	2,035	2,035	2,035	2,035	1,000	1,000
Czechoslovakia	285	353	353	285	1,000	1,000
France	839	649	1,014	1,119	1,000	1,000
Germany	85	582	631	570	1,000	1,000
Greece	650	582	631	570	1,000	1,000
Hungary	2,924	2,924	2,924	2,924	1,000	1,000
Italy	3,583	3,250	3,360	3,300	1,000	1,000
Portugal	1,235	1,238	1,201	1,207	1,000	1,000
Rumania	9,870	850	1,000	925	1,000	1,000
Spain	1,094	850	1,000	925	1,000	1,000
Yugoslavia	6,615	6,615	6,615	6,615	1,000	1,000
Estimated total $\frac{6}{6}$	29,680	27,490	27,010	27,390	1,000	1,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	10,000	7,550	17,000	15,000	1,000	1,000
ASIA						
Turkey	1,098	1,394	1,779	1,745	1,000	1,000
China	12,711	12,711	12,711	12,711	1,000	1,000
Manchuria	3,720	6,680	7,761	8,910	1,000	1,000
India $\frac{7}{7}$	5,526	7,761	8,910	8,910	1,000	1,000
Pakistan $\frac{7}{7}$	811	986	1,068	1,059	1,000	1,000
Indochina	1,053	5,500	6,220	5,030	1,000	1,000
Indonesia	5,800	128	168	183	1,000	1,000
Japan	128	133	133	133	1,000	1,000
Korea	321	321	321	321	1,000	1,000
Philippine Republic	1,765	1,820	3,440	3,540	1,000	1,000
Estimated total $\frac{6}{6}$	36,090	41,090	45,020	43,580	1,000	1,000

AFRICA														
Belgian Congo	179	670	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya ^{8/}	103	136	174	164	-	5/ 19.6	17.9	-	-	-	-	3,500	12,000	-
Egypt	1,599	1,699	1,977	1,903	1,975	39.7	24.9	32.6	27.7	-	-	3,121	3,293	-
French Morocco	1,112	1,260	1,228	1,210	-	7.6	8.0	34.9	35.5	35.7	-	63,508	56,696	69,000
French West Africa	1,732	-	1,695	1,703	-	5/ 12.4	11.6	9.9	9.5	-	-	8,503	10,074	10,890
Madagascar	260	214	-	-	-	5/ 15.3	11.6	-	-	-	-	3,969	2,472	-
Angola	1,435	-	-	-	-	9.0	-	-	-	-	-	12,859	12,900	-
Southern Rhodesia ^{8/}	268	293	364	361	-	22.1	18.1	26.9	29.9	-	-	5,298	9,800	-
Union of South Africa	6,989	7,111	9,200	9,500	-	11.5	12.2	14.5	14.0	-	-	80,132	86,699	133,520
Estimated total ^{8/}	18,210	19,390	23,030	23,290	23,270	-	-	-	-	-	-	255,000	265,000	350,000
SOUTH AMERICA														
Argentina	10,775	5,327	4,603	5,536	-	28.0	29.1	21.8	27.5	-	-	301,986	155,012	100,230
Brazil	10,025	10,866	13,894	13,600	-	21.5	20.7	19.0	19.1	-	-	215,153	224,400	263,370
Chile	110	114	132	136	136	22.7	22.6	30.5	31.0	28.7	-	2,496	2,578	4,030
Colombia	5/ 1,360	1,654	2,060	2,059	-	5/ 15.1	15.4	17.5	18.0	-	-	19,511	25,429	36,000
Peru	650	780	572	573	580	15.4	17.2	20.9	20.6	17.9	-	10,000	13,423	11,960
Uruguay	425	395	682	759	460	12.2	10.1	10.6	11.3	6.5	-	5,188	3,997	7,240
Venezuela	770	815	-	-	-	13.4	13.3	-	-	-	-	15/ 10,350	10,820	12,800
Estimated total ^{8/}	24,930	20,810	23,830	24,570	23,720	-	-	-	-	-	-	575,000	450,000	450,000
OCEANIA														
Australia	314	222	170	200	200	22.4	26.6	30.0	22.5	22.5	-	7,030	5,899	5,100
New Zealand	7	7	3	3	3	45.4	55.6	66.7	-	-	-	318	389	200
Estimated total ^{8/}	325	235	180	210	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500	6,500	5,500
Estimated world total ^{8/}	222,570	215,160	225,160	250,050	260,990	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,775,000	5,290,000	5,635,000

^{1/} Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1956 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which begins early in 1957. ^{2/} Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. ^{3/} Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. ^{4/} Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. ^{5/} Average of less than 5 years. ^{6/} Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. ^{7/} Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable, since figures for 1954-56 include estimates for non-reporting areas, which were not included with earlier figures shown, but allowances were included in estimated total for Africa. ^{8/} Production on European holdings only. Allowances for native cultivation, not shown, are included in estimated total for Africa.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches abroad, results of office research, or other information. Preliminary estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

In Argentina the present forecast of 115 million bushels is only moderately above domestic use in a number of years. The low level of the expected crop has raised the possibility of a ban on further exports. Argentina was, until recent years, the world's leading corn exporter. The forecast of 115 million bushels compares with 152 million a year ago and the prewar average of 302 million.

In Australia corn is of minor importance. A crop of 4.5 million bushels is forecast for the present harvest, compared with the prewar average of 7 million bushels. The reduction is due to about a one-third drop in acreage.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS 1956 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1957

World cattle numbers continued to increase to a new record at the beginning of 1957. The total is estimated at 937 million head. This is about 1 percent more than a year earlier, 20 percent above 1946-50, and 24 percent above prewar.

From 1956 to 1957 numbers continued to rise in all major areas except North America. Compared with prewar, numbers are particularly large in North and South America, Africa and Oceania. (Water buffalo are included with cattle in the countries where they are important).

In recent years conditions have been especially favorable for cattle production in large areas of the world. Specialized cattle production has increased in many tropical and semi-tropical countries. There have also been strong demand and higher prices for beef. New strains of cattle have been developed which are better adapted to the adverse climatic conditions of many of those areas. Increased productivity per animal has been the result of better husbandry and management, better pastures, greater availability of feed, more effective control of insects, pests and diseases. Many governments are encouraging cattle production by diversifying farming operations, thereby increasing the productivity of farms.

Cattle production in South America is expanding, but much of the increase in recent years has occurred in new areas in such countries as Brazil, Bolivia, and Colombia, rather than in established areas such as Paraguay and Uruguay. Apparently low beef prices are discouraging production in Paraguay and Uruguay and competition from wheat and sheep has held down production in Uruguay. Production in Peru has been affected by drought. Numbers in Argentina, however, reached a new high in mid-1956 according to a recent census.

There has been considerable development of the meat packing industry of Africa in recent years. This may further encourage cattle production. Slaughter plants are being built in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Angola, the Rhodesias, Bechuanaland, and South West Africa. Previously, demand for beef and cattle in these countries has been limited largely to domestic use and exports of hides. Increased living standards and agricultural development have contributed to a sharp increase in cattle numbers in central and Northern Africa in recent years. Apparently numbers in the Union of South Africa have not changed much. However, decontrol of beef prices in early 1956 has tended to encourage production.

In Asia, cattle numbers have increased along with farm productivity and population. In much of this area cattle are used as work stock and to provide milk. The raising of cattle for meat is of minor importance. Numbers in India and Pakistan continue to increase at a relatively constant rate. In recent years numbers in Red China also have risen, according to Communist sources. Numbers are considerably above prewar in Turkey, Iran, and Japan.

Cattle numbers in North America decreased during 1956 due to a decline of 1.6 million head in the United States. In this country cattle numbers had been increasing every year since 1949 to establish an all-time high of 96.8 million head at the first of 1956. The 20 million gain in numbers on farms has been accompanied by a sharp increase in slaughter and beef production.

It is expected that numbers in the United States will continue to decline for a few years and the decrease may be slower than in past cycles. Since 1890 the general trend in numbers has been upward, but the uptrend has been interrupted by 5 periods of decline ranging from 4 to 10 years in length. The numbers' cycle has received wide attention and study in the United States but not in other countries, except Canada.

Numbers in Canada continued to rise in 1956 to reach 9.8 million head in December. However, this total was still below the record high of 10.3 reached in December 1944. Numbers in Mexico and Cuba continue to rise.

Numbers increased moderately in Europe during 1956. Further cattle expansion in the area is likely to be relatively small because of other agricultural enterprises are competing for the land. Numbers in the largest producing countries -- West Germany, the United Kingdom and France rose moderately from 1956 to 1957. Numbers also increased in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, but declined in Austria and Yugoslavia.

Cattle numbers have increased substantially in the U.S.S.R. during the past few years, according to Communist sources. The latest estimates of numbers reported are for October 1956.

(Text continued on Page 30; table follows)

CATTLE: Number in Specified Countries, Averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, Annual 1952-57

Continent and Country	Month of Estimate	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
		Thousands	Thousands						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1	8,246	8,883	7,936	8,906	9,371	9,173	9,660	9,813
Costa Rica		366	556			696	797	844	873
El Salvador	July	680					-934	985	
Guatemala	July	520	900	1,194	-827	1,218			
Honduras	July	524	1,000	1,110	1,175	6/			
Mexico	Dec. 31	11,716	13,530	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,000	16,700
Nicaragua		800	1,235	1,182	1,250	1,182	992	1,019	1,044
Panama		434	567	600	568	579	578	578	565
United States	Jan. 1	66,706	78,951	88,072	94,241	95,679	96,592	96,804	95,166
Cuba	Dec. 31	5,024	4,500	4,440	4,000	4,447	4,500	4,500	4,550
Dominican Republic	July	885	887	860	860	-933			
Estimated Total		96,700	112,700	122,800	129,700	132,100	133,100	134,700	134,100
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 31	2,600	2,173	2,400	2,347	2,300	2,304	2,346	2,323
Belgium	Jan. 1	1,724	1,674	2,127	2,151	2,213	2,252	2,242	2,298
Denmark	Dec. 31	3,108	2,881	2,932	2,953	2,999	3,089	3,082	3,113
Finland	June 15	1,850	1,598	1,851	1,809	1,885	1,902	1,827	
France	Oct. 1	15,500	15,073	16,235	16,281	16,889	17,322	17,572	17,792
Germany, Western	Dec. 1	12,114	10,831	11,375	11,641	11,521	11,521	11,553	11,815
Greece	Dec. 31	1,278	742	915	944	976	990	1,033	1,056
Ireland	June	4,021	4,093	4,309	4,397	4,504	4,483	4,534	
Italy	Jan. 1	8,550	7,838	8,381	8,694	8,934	9,033	9,300	
Luxembourg	Dec. 1	108	114	124			127		
Netherlands	May	2,693	2,471	2,858	2,934	3,026	2,995	2,948	
Norway	June 20	1,330	1,226	1,152	1,150	1,181	1,171	1,112	
Portugal	Dec. 31	832	975			930			
Spain	April 1		3,206	3,150	3,128	3,184			
Sweden	Summer	2,959	2,705	2,532	2,554	2,586	2,575	2,434	
Switzerland	April	1,663	1,471	1,682	1,635	1,593	1,583	1,645	
United Kingdom	June	8,738	9,973	10,244	10,444	10,716	10,668	10,916	
Yugoslavia	Jan.	4,281	5,322	4,885	5,067	5,160	5,340	5,290	4,977
Estimated Total		102,500	95,950	102,200	103,700	105,400	106,300	107,100	108,200
Western Europe									
Other Europe									
U.S.S.R.	Jan. 1	59,800	50,800	58,800	56,600	63,000	64,900	67,000	70,400
ASIA									
Iran	Mar.	2,797	2,700	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000		
Syria	Dec. 31	8,611	510	483	447	447	481	474	
Turkey	Dec. 3		10,826	11,353	11,708	11,803	11,939	12,095	
British Malaya		531	440	506	527	530	526		
Burma	Dec. 31	6,165	5,030	5,358	5,769	6,045	6,270		
Ceylon	May	1,625	1,732	1,816	1,884	1,984	2,228		
China	May	37,100	33,100	37,300	40,700				
India	Jan. 1	180,000	178,200	199,271	205,300	207,800	209,000		
Indonesia	Dec. 31	7,669	7,330	7,318	7,491	7,491			
Japan	Feb. 1	1,798	2,167	2,670	2,826	2,897	3,057	3,216	3,480
Korea - South	Dec. 31	922	616	573	661	688	763	867	
Pakistan	Jan. 1	33,000	30,000	29,049	29,100	29,896	30,000		
Philippine Islands	Jan. 1	4,148	2,340	3,178	3,272	3,516	3,939	4,262	
Taiwan (Formosa)	Dec. 31	354	307	375	383	395	406	410	
Thailand	Mar. 31	11,283	10,006	10,987	11,007	10,979	11,040	11,050	
Estimated Total		308,200	294,800	323,700	335,000	339,700	344,100	347,600	350,300

SOUTH AMERICA											
Argentina	July	33,762	11,150	39,000	40,900	44,000	44,000	145,400	-	-	-
Bolivia	Dec. 31	1,842	1,493	1,850	-	2,260	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil	Dec. 31	40,807	46,200	53,518	55,854	57,626	61,422	64,000	-	-	-
Chile	June	2,489	2,345	2,293	2,300	2,546	2,550	2,560	-	-	-
Colombia	Dec. 31	8,010	11,500	12,200	10,500	10,994	11,500	12,100	-	-	-
Ecuador	Dec. 31	1,300	1,520	1,200	1,200	1,216	-	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31	3,259	3,890	3,857	4,132	4,162	4,336	3,100	-	-	-
Peru	May	-	2,790	3,531	3,412	3,169	3,439	7,305	-	-	-
Uruguay	May	8,297	7,875	8,000	8,013	7,819	7,250	6,200	-	-	-
Venezuela	May	-	-	5,674	1/	6,000	1/	6,200	-	-	-
Estimated Total		105,500	123,800	131,300	135,000	140,000	144,200	148,800	-	-	-
AFRICA											
Algeria 17/	April	841	759	846	864	892	893	112	-	-	-
Angola	Dec.	2,306	1,281	1,400	1,221	1,157	1,184	1,245	-	-	-
Belgian Congo, incl. Ruandi Urundi	Dec. 31	1,237	1,572	1,697	1,659	1,743	1,803	-	-	-	-
British East Africa:											
Kenya	Dec. 1	5,239	5,150	6,621	6,646	6,672	6,700	7,100	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31	5,000	6,324	6,300	6,470	6,633	6,488	6,764	-	-	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	2,466	2,464	2,714	2,745	2,842	2,750	2,855	-	-	-
British Southern Africa:											
Basutoland	Feb.	437	430	401	406	-	408	-	-	-	-
Bechuanaland	Dec. 31	753	948	1,054	1,088	1,140	-	-	-	-	-
Swaziland	Dec. 31	407	436	409	421	421	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt 11/	July 1	2,076	2,810	3,021	2,888	2,765	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia & Eritrea	Dec. 31	5,172	16,460	20,200	20,200	20,000	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar 17/	Dec. 31	2,229	1,907	5,892	5,898	5,910	6,100	6,100	-	-	-
Morocco 17/	Dec. 31	543	632	2,342	2,468	2,803	2,816	2,816	-	-	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31	3,187	3,912	4,166	4,192	4,274	-	835	-	-	-
Rhodesias & Nyasaland	Dec. 31	2,700	3,350	4,785	4,785	-	4,355	4,450	-	-	-
Sudan	Dec. 31	194	394	475	401	483	-	3,800	-	-	-
Tunisia	Aug.	11,636	12,285	11,768	11,655	11,604	-	501	-	-	-
Union of South Africa											
Estimated Total		64,600	86,800	94,400	96,700	97,200	97,700	100,300	-	-	-
OCEANIA											
Australia	Mar. 31	13,285	13,971	14,893	15,247	15,571	15,836	16,457	-	-	-
New Zealand	Jan. 31	1,449	4,723	5,165	5,446	5,745	5,887	5,600	-	-	-
Estimated Total		18,100	19,100	20,500	21,100	21,700	22,100	22,500	-	-	-
Estimated World Total		755,400	783,900	853,700	877,800	899,100	912,400	928,000	-	-	-

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1951 estimate of 1,936,000 is shown under 1952. 2/Preliminary. 3/Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/July. 5/March. 6/May. 7/June. 8/Census or estimate for single year. 9/Official statistics; may be under estimates of actual numbers. 10/September. 11/Includes buffaloes. 12/Census December 31, 1934. 13/One year and older. 14/October. 15/1952 data National estimate of China mainland. Excludes outer Mongolia. 16/Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 17/Number taxed only.

Compiled from official sources, reports of agricultural attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. Foreign Agricultural Service. April 1957.

Cattle numbers in Australia have reached a new record high. Range conditions have been unusually good and producers' prices have been satisfactory. But numbers in New Zealand declined moderately last year due to relatively low returns from dairying.

The countries having the largest numbers of cattle are India, the United States, Brazil, Russia, Argentina, the Mainland of China, Pakistan, Ethiopia and France. Australia and Mexico rate close to France with about 17 million head each.

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS 1956 AND ESTIMATES FOR 1957

World sheep numbers continued to increase slightly during 1956. The total, estimated at 919 million head, is 2 percent greater than a year earlier, 29 percent above the 1946-50 average and 23 percent above prewar.

The upward trend in the postwar period was due to relatively favorable wool prices and returns from sheep. Grazing conditions in the important sheep producing countries have favored increased production. High production costs, however, resulted in smaller numbers in the United States and Canada.

Australia's sheep numbers increased sharply during 1956. According to Soviet published information, numbers in the U.S.S.R. continued to increase. Only minor changes occurred in Asian, African, or South American numbers. North American numbers declined slightly during the year.

Compared with prewar, numbers are unusually large in Asia, Africa, and Oceania. They are near prewar levels in Europe, but about 35 percent below prewar in North America.

An outstanding development in the world sheep situation in recent years has been the sharp increase in Australia where numbers are now estimated at about 151 million head, an increase of 33 million since 1952. There are now 48 million more sheep than the average for 1946-50 and 38 million more than in 1936-40. Australia has more sheep than any other country in the world, and nearly 5 times as many as the United States.

Wholesale eradication of rabbits by myxomatosis disease has greatly increased the pasture-carrying capacity for sheep in Australia. Also there has been some development of irrigation and improvement in pastures. Wool prices have been favorable to producers. Australia has had better-than-average grazing conditions for a number of years.

Grazing conditions were unusually good in 1956 and prospects are bright for another good year. In the past 2 years, grazers have bought old sheep for re-stocking which under more normal conditions would have been slaughtered. It is difficult to determine the extent to which the overall grazing capacity has increased, but an unfavorable grazing season would probably result in an increase in sheep slaughter and might reduce numbers on farms and ranches. Cattle numbers are also at record levels.

Numbers in New Zealand increased from 35.4 million in April 1952 to 40.3 million in April 1956. High wool and lamb prices and relatively low returns from dairying are encouraging expansion.

Sheep numbers in the Soviet Union are reported to have increased from 115 million head in October 1953 to 130 million in October 1956. The October estimates are not comparable with those previously published for January 1. The October data include most of the current years' lamb crop and October-December is a period of large slaughter. The U.S.S.R. has been a sizable importer of wool in recent years. It is striving to increase sheep numbers, especially of fine woolled sheep.

Sheep numbers have changed little in South America in the past 3 years. Numbers in Argentina and Uruguay probably will increase unless grazing conditions become unfavorable. Wool prices in Argentina increased sharply during late 1955, as a result of the devaluation of the peso, and wool prices increased relative to prices of cattle.

Wool production in Uruguay this year is reported to be lower due to a poor grazing season and low yield per sheep. The government has also cancelled a decree which was in effect last year, requiring the consumption of 1 pound of mutton for each 5 pounds of beef, which encouraged sheep slaughter. The May 1956 census reported 23 million head of sheep in Uruguay which was below previous expectations. The previous census of May 1951 reported 23.4 million. Relatively good returns from wheat have limited sheep raising.

Sheep production in Peru has been severely curtailed by drought. Apparently numbers are continuing to increase in Brazil, where a price support program for wool has been a factor encouraging expansion.

Numbers may have increased slightly in Asia during 1956. In recent years there has been considerable expansion in sheep production in Iran and Iraq. But numbers in Turkey, India, and Pakistan probably have not changed much. There has been a sharp increase in sheep raising in Japan, although that country is not a large producer.

(Continued on Page 34; table follows)

SHEEP: Number in Specified Countries 1936-40 and 1946-50, Annual 1952-57

Continent and Country	Month of Estimate	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 2/	1957 2/
		Thousands	Thousands						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	2,651	1,681	1,016	1,105	1,161	1,183	1,181	1,172
Guatemala	July	273	665	-	813 3/	865	739	756	-
Mexico	Dec. 31 1/	4,809	4,931	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,350
United States	Jan. 1	51,404	34,993	31,982	31,900	31,356	31,582	31,273	30,838
Estimated Total		59,700	42,800	39,400	39,400	39,000	39,300	39,100	38,700
EUROPE									
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	6/	419	-	319	297	278	255	226
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/	132	124	114	110	103	103	-
Denmark	July 15	1/	93	48	39	37	32	33	-
Finland	June 15	8/	1,007	1,126	998	908	749	566	-
France	Oct. 1 1/	8/	9,848	7,585	7,675	7,826	8,013	8,216	8,355
Germany, Western	Dec. 1 1/	6/	1,889	1,666	1,544	1,352	1,226	1,168	1,146
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	6/	8,304	7,326	7,784	8,524	8,738	9,070	9,100
Iceland	Dec. 31 1/	10/	624	411	443	544	635	657	-
Ireland	June	3/	2,229	2,857	2,930	3,113	3,269	3,448	-
Italy	Jan. 1	9,650	9,424	10,142	10,002	9,892	9,746	9,400	-
Netherlands	May	636	459	383	424	407	381	429	-
Norway	June 20	1,742	1,716	1,987	1,985	1,952	1,922	1,826	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	7/11/	3,890	-	5,200	-	-	-	-
Spain 12/	Apr 1	6/	16,132	16,348	16,181	17,233	-	-	-
Sweden	Summer	398	368	256	241	235	117	141	-
Switzerland	April	6/	177	189	188	195	195	201	-
United Kingdom	June	26,112	19,032	21,655	22,455	22,873	22,949	23,645	-
Yugoslavia	Jan.	1/	9,920	10,845	11,400	12,112	11,970	11,518	10,700
Estimated Total		120,100	104,100	113,500	116,800	121,100	124,400	125,100	125,000
Western Europe		94,300	83,300	86,000	90,000	92,700	95,500	95,800	95,800
Eastern Europe		25,800	20,800	25,500	26,800	28,400	28,900	29,300	29,200
U.S.S.R.	Jan. 1	66,000	67,700	86,000	-	13/ 114,900	13/ 117,500	13/ 124,900	13/ 129,800
ASIA									
Cyprus 14/	Dec. 1/	4/13/	302	295	311	351	361	382	-
Iran	Mar. 21	14,497	12,800	16,200	17,000	17,750	18,000	-	-
Iraq	Mar. 31	7,090	7,323	8,700	-	-	10,000	-	-
Syria	Dec. 31 1/	6/	2,954	3,085	3,560	3,746	3,955	4,340	-
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	21,656	24,053	24,833	26,534	27,211	26,808	26,550	-
China 15/	Jan. 1	30,000	28,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	Jan. 1	41,000	38,200	40,000	40,000	-	-	30,700	-
Indonesia	Dec. 31 1/	1,614	1,805	2,230	2,381	2,490	2,887	2,807	-
Japan	Feb. 1	309	309	578	693	733	784	893	1,020
Pakistan	Jan. 1	8,000	6,150	-	-	6,115	-	-	-
Estimated Total		156,700	148,000	161,200	166,900	169,800	171,300	173,700	174,500

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina	July	6/	14,900	50,000	-	51,000	46,772	46,000	47,371
Bolivia	Dec. 31	1/	2,608	3,000	-	-	6,464	-	-
Brazil	Dec. 31	1/	11,438	14,413	15,891	16,264	16,800	17,503	18,300
Chile	June	5/	5,955	6,456	7,200	6,500	6,443	6,465	6,540
Colombia	Jan. 1	1/	916	1,110	1,350	1,465	1,111	-	-
Ecuador		1/	-	1,480	1,559	1,600	1,351	-	-
Falkland Islands		6/	604	610	584	594	600	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31	1/	159	254	217	218	-	218	-
Peru	May	1/	14,900	17,952	15,901	16,190	15,904	16,821	-
Uruguay	May	1/	17,931	21,600	24,513	25,677	26,578	25,000	22,954
Estimated Total			100,900	116,900	123,100	125,600	122,400	121,500	121,700

AFRICA

Algeria 14/	April		6,180	3,486	5,321	6,030	6,014	6,009	1/	6,398
British East Africa:										
Kenya		6/	3,271	3,260	-	2,687	2,691	3,000	1/	3,000
Tanganyika	Dec. 31	1/	1,780	2,263	2,340	2,510	3,066	3,024	-	2,727
Uganda	Mar. 31		1,285	1,018	1,034	1,051	1,128	-	-	1,136
British Southern Africa:										
Basutoland	Feb.		1,443	1,630	1,564	1,303	-	1,339	-	-
Egypt	July 1	6/	1,771	1,943	1,959	1,864	-	2,237	-	-
Ethiopia & Eritrea	July		-	-	-	-	19,500	-	-	-
French West Africa 18/		6/	8,674	9,000	16,521	19,600	19,600	20,000	-	-
Madagascar 14/	Dec. 31	1/	193	171	284	365	397	-	-	-
Morocco 14/ 17/	Dec. 31	1/	10,457	8,550	11,627	14,581	14,328	15,000	-	-
Mozambique	Dec. 31	1/	84	66	82	76	75	77	74	-
Rhodesias & Nyasaland	Dec. 31	1/	399	393	373	394	334	334	343	-
South West Africa	Dec. 31	1/	2,972	2,712	3,500	3,500	3,200	3,100	-	-
Sudan		6/	2,500	5,375	-	-	-	5,200	-	-
Tunisia 14/	Dec. 31	1/	3,026	2,010	3,060	3,420	2,875	3,352	3,025	-
Union of South Africa	Aug.		39,899	31,542	35,480	35,992	37,142	-	-	-
Estimated Total			100,200	99,000	120,600	130,600	131,300	134,400	135,300	136,500

OCEANIA

Australia	Mar. 31	1/	112,571	103,261	117,946	123,072	126,890	130,849	139,124	151,000
New Zealand	Apr. 30		31,352	32,973	35,384	36,193	38,011	39,117	40,250	-
Estimated Total			144,000	136,200	153,300	159,300	165,000	170,000	179,400	192,500
Estimated World Total			747,600	711,800	796,900	846,100	863,500	878,500	899,200	918,800

1/End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals; thus, for Canada the December 1, 1951 estimate of 1,016,000 head is shown under 1952. 2/Preliminary. 3/May. 4/Census or estimate for single year. 5/June. 6/Average for 2 to 4 years only. 7/Official estimates; may be under estimates of actual numbers. 8/September. 9/March. 10/Spring. 11/Census, December 31, 1940. 12/One year old and older. 13/October. 14/Number taxed only. 15/Includes China proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkistan), excludes Outer Mongolia. 16/Includes animals under one year old. 17/Estimates for former area of Spanish Morocco are for June 1. 18/Includes goats.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory. Totals include estimates for countries for which no official estimates are available. Foreign Agricultural Service, April 1957.

Official announcement of the second 5-year plan for Communist China for the years 1957-62 reported the number of the country's sheep and goats in 1952 at 61.8 million head. This was slightly less than the peak reached in 1937. The Communists would like to bring about a sharp increase in numbers. It is likely that sheep numbers now are somewhat greater than in 1952.

There was a moderate increase in sheep numbers in Africa during 1956. Numbers continued to increase in Algeria and French West Africa but apparently there was little change in other areas, including the Union of South Africa. There were 37 million sheep in the Union in August 1954, according to a census taken then.

Sheep numbers in Algeria increased during 1956 and apparently the increase is continuing in 1957. Exports of sheep and mutton were large in 1956. Pasturage was particularly good. Strong demand for meat by the military encouraged sheep slaughter. The principal livestock markets were amply supplied with well finished animals. Some sheep were killed or stolen by terrorists but such losses were small in relation to total numbers.

There was little change in sheep numbers in Europe during 1956. Slight increases were reported in France, Greece, and the United Kingdom.

For Spain, the Director-General of Livestock stated there were 22 million sheep in the fall of 1956. A compulsory vaccination program against blue-tongue disease began in the affected provinces of southern Spain in mid-September. By the second week in November, it was reported that 8 million sheep had been vaccinated. It was reported that 50,000 sheep died from the disease last year. The outbreak had spread to 10 provinces but the current vaccination program has been effective in preventing further spread of the disease.

Portugal recently initiated a vaccination program against blue-tongue in that country. According to reports, 4 million doses of vaccine have been made available to flock owners this spring. Blue-tongue spread widely in Portugal in 1956.

Sheep numbers in both the United States and Canada declined slightly last year. The 30.8 million head on farms in the United States in January 1957, except for 1950 and 1951, the lowest since annual estimates became available beginning in 1867.

WORLD OUTPUT OF DAIRY PRODUCTS, FOURTH QUARTER AND ANNUAL, 1956

Fourth Quarter:

Over-all factory production of dairy products increased in the fourth quarter of 1956, compared with the same quarter of 1955. In most countries of West Europe, except Sweden and Switzerland, conditions were favorable for milk production. Less satisfactory conditions prevailed throughout much of the quarter in Australia and New Zealand, and milk production for the quarter declined slightly. Milk production also dropped in Canada, but was up in the United States.

Butter production (in factories) in the fourth quarter, 1956 was up approximately 8 percent over comparable 1955. Output was down in the major producing countries, including Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, and the United States. Little change in production occurred in the Federal Republic of Germany. All other countries reported increased output in this period.

Factory cheese production showed the biggest gain in the fourth quarter, 1956, rising 16 percent over the corresponding quarter of 1955. Substantial increases were reported in Australia, Denmark, Norway, France, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, but smaller output was reported in the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Argentina and New Zealand.

Canned milk production in the October-December quarter rose 5 percent over comparable 1955, all countries reporting expanded production except Argentina.

Output of dried milk was up 2 percent. Sweden, the United Kingdom and Argentina increased their production in the fourth quarter. Declines were reported by the Netherlands, Canada and the United States, while Australia maintained output at the 1955 level.

Prospects for production in Australia appear to be satisfactory for dairy production. General rains are necessary in most areas of New Zealand if a serious drop in production is to be avoided.

Annual: The year 1956 as a whole was a good one for dairy production in almost all of the major producing countries. Favorable weather conditions, some increase in dairy cow numbers and in yield per cow in some countries, were reflected in higher milk production than in the preceding year. With more milk from the increased production becoming available for manufacturing, the over-all output of dairy products for the year was substantially above a year ago.

FACTORY DAIRY PRODUCTS: Output in principal producing and exporting countries,
4th quarter (calendar) 1956, (preliminary), with comparisons

Country and Product	1954-58 Average	1946-50 Average	Total 1955	Total 1956	1956				Fourth Quarter 1956/1955
					1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
					pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	Percent
BUTTER									
Canada	254,774	277,868	320,394	305,091	61,643	100,944	115,227	51,941	84
United States	1,705,240	1,301,830	1,386,158	1,409,065	295,399	434,645	331,480	286,375	97
Belgium	46,179	55,353	98,940	102,119	82,892	112,655	90,830	80,027	101
Denmark	400,660	318,697	362,216	366,404	28,961	43,281	41,495	31,129	132
Finland	61,287	61,215	107,421	144,866	92,000	139,000	139,000	209,000	192
France	220,000	—	483,000	573,000	144,882	197,868	179,212	141,098	100
Republic of Germany	560,000	492,188	639,851	663,000	5,332	32,111	39,918	19,061	113
Ireland	89,400	68,648	84,157	96,422	28,565	59,524	48,500	31,411	98
Netherlands	201,000	155,620	161,992	168,000	4,511	11,376	7,804	3,866	142
Norway	24,930	20,949	23,162	27,557	37,025	55,597	53,619	35,431	98
Sweden	152,769	216,442	185,594	181,672	13,359	18,587	16,866	12,992	387
Switzerland	57,760	36,949	57,760	59,524	7,616	23,744	11,872	12,992	124
United Kingdom	44,200	23,529	44,200	56,224	46,861	31,211	26,100	41,250	—
Argentina	65,742	100,657	125,543	145,422	25,545	18,793	16,062	—	96
Union of So. Africa	27,725	44,845	78,270	—	134,078	67,754	90,191	162,780	99
Australia	415,250	354,371	443,901	454,803	137,711	41,328	84,522	185,443	—
New Zealand	366,912	346,095	427,299	449,004	—	—	—	—	—
CHEESE									
Canada	119,924	114,329	79,980	84,144	14,761	25,017	35,042	17,266	117
United States	643,234	1,156,005	1,363,241	1,393,395	312,870	442,070	353,505	284,950	106
Denmark	68,820	123,634	191,359	186,289	33,290	60,846	51,147	41,006	120
France	11	11	494,000	595,000	91,000	157,000	151,000	196,000	198
Italy	523,513	491,326	767,642	—	—	—	—	—	—
Netherlands	200,000	176,926	347,738	339,000	56,482	95,679	133,537	53,302	72
Norway	39,067	35,564	63,713	71,990	15,126	25,256	19,838	11,770	113
Sweden	76,059	115,005	119,276	111,623	22,718	35,242	33,450	20,214	95
Switzerland	111,729	107,232	132,937	132,496	21,193	37,438	42,829	22,233	91
United Kingdom	109,000	69,888	141,120	223,776	42,560	76,384	55,104	49,728	222
Argentina	67,873	203,830	285,110	279,299	80,672	60,534	58,556	79,537	94
Union of So. Africa	10,195	17,967	26,710	—	7,490	5,725	5,874	—	—
Australia	48,400	98,396	87,867	96,737	18,964	11,649	24,385	41,799	123
New Zealand	210,911	216,842	212,722	212,743	66,327	22,109	32,765	91,542	97

CANNED MILK

Canada <u>14/</u>	104,335	266,532	2/	321,560	334,362	2/	60,020	2/	107,091	2/	109,828	60,171	100
United States <u>15/</u>	1,970,189	3,170,576	2/	2,613,512	2,604,940	2/	472,172	2/	860,830	2/	706,850	482,050	102
Cuba	32,564	36,655	2/	64,705	75,649	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
Denmark	40,785	58,701	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
France	28,953	57,984	4/	110,000	110,000	4/	—	4/	—	4/	—	—	—
Republic of Germany	11/	11/	2/	485,473	—	2/	94,578	2/	193,599	2/	154,517	—	—
Netherlands	309,952	181,222	2/	576,798	645,000	4/	134,682	2/	193,563	2/	183,423	148,710	110
Switzerland	14,198	13,091	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
United Kingdom	378,560	219,914	2/	397,376	423,808	2/	67,872	2/	181,664	2/	80,192	74,144	109
Argentina	3,159	16/	2/	25,183	26,063	2/	7,625	2/	5,199	2/	7,817	6,415	84
Australia	41,894	132,745	2/	121,370	146,263	2/	54,789	2/	17,808	2/	30,357	63,073	115
New Zealand	11,273	—	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
DRIED MILK <u>19/</u>	26,079	72,686	2/	107,976	98,829	2/	23,371	2/	34,929	2/	33,309	16,645	71
Canada <u>20/</u>	637,407	1,704,061	2/	1,534,084	1,607,875	2/	297,145	2/	552,375	2/	340,950	293,350	99
United States <u>21/</u>	5,500	6,507	2/	34,859	41,472	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
Belgium	2,205	16,866	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
Denmark	7,685	3,308	4/	22,000	22,000	4/	—	4/	—	4/	—	—	—
France	11/	11/	2/	83,224	—	2/	17,095	2/	38,463	2/	32,733	—	—
Republic of Germany	56,438	54,468	2/	117,757	137,000	4/	8,054	2/	69,886	2/	46,076	7,071	88
Netherlands	1,351	24,566	2/	23,215	31,687	2/	3,462	2/	11,861	2/	8,877	4,426	128
Sweden	7,187	10,847	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
Switzerland	43,098	73,848	2/	99,904	154,784	2/	17,696	2/	59,136	2/	32,704	34,496	195
United Kingdom	3,977	14,070	2/	23,541	25,196	2/	7,909	2/	4,588	2/	3,280	8,999	114
Argentina	16,971	54,235	2/	96,566	110,161	2/	44,909	2/	12,826	2/	24,129	44,790	100
Australia	17,429	—	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—
New Zealand	—	—	2/	—	—	2/	—	2/	—	2/	—	—	—

1/ Average 1935-39. 2/ Revised. 3/ Average 1948-50. 4/ Estimated. 5/ Average 1935-38. 6/ Production year ending June 30. 7/ Total production. 8/ Annual production figures more complete than monthly figures used in quarterly data. 9/ Production year ending August 31. 10/ Cheddar cheese only. 11/ Not available. 12/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of sheep and goats. 13/ Total cheese, and includes cheese made from the milk of goats. 14/ Both bulk and case goods. 15/ Evaporated whole and condensed whole case goods only. (Estimates of bulk types discontinued). 16/ Less than a 5-year average. 17/ For 1937. 18/ For 1939. 19/ Dried whole milk and non-fat solids production. 20/ Approximately 1.8 - 2.0 million pounds of animal feed now being included in production data; animal feed production not available and not included for 1935-39 period. 21/ Includes dried milk for animal feeding. 22/ For 1938.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U.S. representatives abroad and other information. April 22, 1957.

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION UP - QUALITY HIGH

Mediterranean Basin olive oil production in the 1956-57 marketing year is now estimated at 1,068,000 short tons by the Foreign Agricultural Service, only 6,000 tons less than the preliminary estimate made last December. This is about 325,000 tons more than the estimated 1955-56 production and about equal to output in 1954-55 and to the 1950-51 - 1953-54 average. These estimates reflect all production from crushing, including non-commercial output, but do not include sulphur or foots oil extracted from olive residue by solvent methods.

The quality of oil from this season's olives is unusually good in all producing countries, due mainly to the virtual disappearance of the dacus fly in 1956.

Net export availabilities of edible olive oil from the Mediterranean in 1957 may exceed 125,000 tons, compared with estimated net exports of 85,000 tons in 1956. Net exports--which represent total exports from Mediterranean countries less imports of olive oil into France and Italy -- were as follows in previous years (in thousand short tons):

1935-39 average		113
1952.....	64	1954..... 75
1953.....	79	1955..... 66

This large exportable supply--all of which probably will not be marketed this year--reflects mainly the bumper crop in Tunisia, Spain's stated intention to maximize exports, and the expected entrance of Turkey into the export market. Quantities intended for export from these 3 countries this year exceed their 1956 exports by about 45,000 tons.

Despite the large overall olive crop, import requirements of certain Mediterranean countries again are high this year. Italy, which harvested a short olive crop for the second consecutive year, is likely to import even more edible oils for domestic consumption than last year. Spain--where oil consumption is rising--again is importing sizable quantities of United States soybean oil. Turkey is planning to import tallow from the United States to free for export an equivalent amount of olive oil hitherto used for soap. Turkey will also import edible vegetable oils. The bulk of these requirements in Mediterranean countries will be met by United States exports under Title I, Public Law 480 and--to a lesser degree--under International Cooperation Administration (ICA) programs.

In some olive-producing countries the trends towards greater consumption of imported seed oils, either as such or blended with olive oil, has been accentuated by the shortage and consequent skyrocketing price of olive oil in the last two years.

Government and trade circles in several countries are now giving some thought to a permanent policy of maximizing exports of olive oil, making up the domestic deficit with lower-priced imported seed oils and oilseeds. If consumer acceptance of imported seed oils continue to grow, such a policy--over the years--may lessen the traditional need in olive-producing countries for carrying over sizable stocks of olive oil from "high" to "low" years.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Mediterranean Basin, estimated production, averages 1935-39, 1945-49, and 1950-53, annual 1954-56

Country	Average			1954	1955 <u>2/</u>	1956 <u>2/</u>
	1935-39	1945-49	1950-53			
	- - - Short tons - - -					
EUROPE						
France.....	8,000:	7,000:	10,250:	9,000:	7,000:	3,000
Greece.....	131,500:	132,540:	112,300:	125,000:	115,000:	150,000
Italy.....	256,000:	189,800:	297,500:	313,000:	200,000:	150,000
Portugal.....	64,000:	67,460:	88,225:	55,000:	75,000:	100,000
Spain..... <u>3/</u>	357,400:	365,200:	382,125:	335,000:	255,000:	400,000
Yugoslavia..... <u>3/</u>	5,900:	4,100:	1,950:	9,000:	9,700:	3,500
MIDDLE EAST						
Israel..... <u>4/</u>	7,000: <u>3/</u>	2,500:	1,350:	4,000:	600:	4,500
Syria.....	(12,500:	14,900:	5,625:	4,200:	4,400:	8,000
Lebanon.....	(12,500:	10,800:	8,325:	8,300:	3,800:	15,000
Turkey.....	44,000:	38,000:	47,500:	70,000:	38,000:	75,000
AFRICA						
Algeria.....	20,000:	17,600:	26,375:	30,000:	18,000:	30,000
Morocco <u>5/</u>	10,300:	11,800:	18,000:	28,000:	13,000:	35,000
Tunisia.....	49,300:	42,300:	55,650:	58,000:	25,000:	90,000
Libya.....	2,600:	3,000:	6,375:	2,000:	3,000:	4,000
Total.....	968,500:	907,000:	1,061,550:	1,050,500:	758,500:	1,068,000

1/ Total oil pressed in marketing season beginning October of years shown; excludes oil extracted from residue. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average of less than 5 years. 4/ Territory formerly known as Palestine. 5/ Figures refer only to territory formerly known as French Morocco.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information.

Commercial olive oil production in France is estimated at a modern-day low of about 1,000 short tons. Another 2,000 tons, non-commercial, is assumed to be retained by growers for family consumption. France will need to import even more olive oil than usual in 1957 and subsequent years to meet normal domestic needs. The freeze in 1956 severely damaged nearly half of France's 12 million olive trees, including 700,000 killed. Olive oil output in France is not likely to return to its pre-1956 level in less than 10 to 20 years.

Greece's production of oil from the 1956-57 crop of olives is now officially estimated at about 150,000 short tons, somewhat below earlier expectations as a result of a late-season drought. Private sources indicate a still smaller production.

In Italy preliminary estimates of the 1956-57 crop vary considerably, ranging from 110,000 to 155,000 tons. However, in the absence of an official estimate, it is believed that the severe regional freeze damage may have caused excessive pessimism to prevail in the trade. Thus, the crop is currently estimated at 150,000 tons to which may be added another 20,000 tons of sulphur oil which, in Italy, is mostly refined for edible use.

There is still no official report on the damage suffered by Italian olive groves from the early 1956 freeze. However, there is general agreement that the principal olive-producing areas did not suffer heavy permanent damage.

Portugal's production of olive oil in 1956-57 is officially estimated at 100,000 tons, a record for a so-called "off year." As a result of the large crop, the government has lifted the requirement--instituted in March 1956 that olive oil be blended with equal parts of peanut oil. However, exporters of olive oil are still required to replace exports with equal quantities of imported peanut oil.

The estimate for Spain's 1956-57 olive oil production is unchanged at about 400,000 tons, the largest crop since 1951. This is the estimate of the semi-official Olive Oil Syndicate. The export target in 1957 is 55,000 tons, substantially above the unofficially estimated 44,000 tons exported in 1956, of which nearly half went to the United States.

Yugoslavia's olive trees apparently were not damaged as badly as had been believed earlier. The official estimate of the 1956-57 olive harvest of 23,500 tons is only moderately below the average of 30,000 tons for the last 5 years.

Israel harvested a good crop of olives, estimated at 26,500 tons, of which about 22,500 tons were crushed to produce 4,400 tons of oil. Two modern crushing plants operating this season reportedly turned out an unusually high quality oil. With rationing of olive oil discontinued, Israel is aggressively competing for export business in various foreign markets, including the United States.

The olive crop in Lebanon was exceptionally large because of adequate rainfall late in the growing season. Oil production for 1956-57 is now estimated at 15,000 tons, about 4 times last season's. In view of the good crop, the government has already freed 4,000 tons of oil for export. Net exports of edible oil in 1956 were negligible.

Syria's estimated edible olive oil production from the 1956 crop is 8,000 tons, nearly twice the previous year's output and about two-fifths over the 1950-53 average. This reflects the good recovery made by Syria's olive groves since the 1950 freeze which killed or damaged many trees.

Despite excessively dry weather during the ripening period, Turkey apparently harvested a record crop of olives. Production of oil in 1956-57 is currently estimated at 75,000 tons. Since the end of the harvest was delayed well into April this year, the current estimate is still preliminary, but production will probably exceed the previous record of 70,000 tons produced in 1954-55.

The Turkish Government on March 14 prohibited the use of olive oil for soapmaking, to make available a planned 15,000 metric tons for export. Imports of United States tallow under Title I, Public Law 480 will help make this export possible.

Production of olive oil in 1956-57 in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, combined, is estimated at 155,000 tons, nearly 3 times last year's. This large output, with its consequent large export availabilities, will benefit France which usually obtains most of its imports from North Africa and needs larger than usual imports this year.

The semi-official Office de l'Huile has preliminarily estimated Tunisian production at about 90,000 tons. Other sources believe the crush may turn out as high as 100,000 tons. In any case, Tunisia's edible oil production will be second in size to the record 115,000 tons produced in 1949-50. In addition, there will be more than 10,000 tons of sulphur oil. Exportable supplies from the 1956-57 crush are estimated to be 40-50,000 tons, after allowing for "security stocks" of over 13,000 tons. More than 13,000 tons had been exported by March 25, virtually all to France, the United States, and Italy.

C O R R E C T I O N

In WORLD AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS--Area Harvested, on Page 4 of March 1957 monthly issue of Foreign Crops and Markets, the "total area harvested" for COTTON should have been 79.4 million acres (not 76.9 million). This makes the total area harvested for all commodities listed 1602.9 million (not 1600.4 million).

The Commodity Summaries in this monthly supplementary issue of Foreign Crops and Markets are part of a series of reports on World Crop and Livestock Production and Trade which are released according to a schedule published at the beginning of each calendar year.

The country data are prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. Representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information. The Summaries of Production have been approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics.

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